

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. An Exchange Input, a first sender, a first recipient, all connected to a network, where the Exchange Input consists of means to send and to receive a file using the network; a process description, a sequence of process nodes; and means for file transformation from a first file format to a standard file format; and means to store a file in standard format in a data storage medium, wherein the process description includes a first process node for the receipt of a file in the first format from a first sender, a second process node for transforming the file to the standard file format, a third process node for the storage of the transformed file in standard format such that the Exchange Input receives a file in the first format from the first sender, transforms the file to the standard format, and stores the transformed file in the standard format.
2. The Exchange Input of claim 1, wherein the process description further includes a process node for validating the file in standard format such that the Exchange Input validates the file in standard format before storing the transformed file in standard format.
3. The Exchange Input of claim 1, wherein the process description further includes a process node for translating a file using a first part number set to a file using a standard part number set such that the Exchange Input translates a file using the first part number to a file using the standard part number set.
4. The Exchange Input of claim 1, wherein the process description further includes a process node for sending the file in the first format to the first recipient such that the Exchange Input receives a file in the first format from the first sender and sends the file in the first format to the first recipient.
5. The Exchange Input of claim 1 wherein the process description further includes a process node for sending the file in the standard format to the

first sender such that Exchange Input receives a file in the first format from the first sender and sends the transformed file in the standard format to the first sender.

6. The Exchange Input of claim 1 wherein the process description further includes a process node for sending the file in the standard format to the first recipient such that the Exchange Input receives a file in the first format from the first sender and sends the transformed file in the standard format to the first recipient
7. An Exchange Output, a first sender, a first recipient, all connected to a network, where the Exchange Output consists of means to send and to receive a file using the network; a process description, a sequence of process nodes; and means for file transformation from a standard file format to a second file format; and means to retrieve a file stored in standard format in a data storage medium, wherein the process description includes a first process node for retrieving a file stored in standard format, a second process node for transforming the file in standard format to the second file format, a third process node for sending of the transformed file in the second format to the first recipient such that the Exchange Output retrieves a file in standard format, transforms the file to the second format, and sends the transformed file in the second format to the first recipient.
8. The Exchange Output of claim 7, wherein the process description further includes a process node for validating the file in standard format such that the Exchange Output validates the file in standard format before transforming the file to the second format.
9. The Exchange Output of claim 7, wherein the process description further includes a process node for translating a file using a standard part number set to a file using a second part number set such that the Exchange Output translates a file using the standard part number set to file using the second part number set.

10. The Exchange Output of claim 7 wherein the process description further includes a process node for sending the file in the standard format to the first recipient such that the Exchange Output sends the retrieved file in the standard format to the first recipient
11. The Exchange Output of claim 7 wherein the process description further includes a process node for sending the file in the second format to the first sender such that the Exchange Output sends the retrieved file in the second format to the first sender
12. A Process and Transformation Private Exchange consisting of an Exchange Input and an Exchange Output where the files stored in the data storage medium by the Exchange Input may be retrieved by the Exchange Output.
13. The Process and Transformation Private Exchange of claim 12 wherein the process description is a workflow route and the Process and Transformation Private Exchange is a workflow system.
14. The Process and Transformation Private Exchange of claim 12 further consists of a means for tracking the execution of each process node in a process description and a means for reporting the current node in the execution of a process description.
15. The Process and Transformation Private Exchange of claim 12 further consists of a means for pricing the use of the Process and Transformation Private Exchange based on usage.
16. The Process and Transformation Private Exchange of claim 12 further consists a means for pricing the use of the Process and Transformation Private Exchange based on a subscription for a period of time.
17. The Process and Transformation Private Exchange of claim 12 further consists of a means for pricing the use of the Process and Transformation Private exchange based on the volume of files stored in the data storage medium.
18. The Process and Transformation Private Exchange of claim 12 where the network is connected to the Internet.

19. The Process and Transformation Private Exchange of claim 12 further consists of a means for storing an audit trail of the processes descriptions and process nodes executed.

19. The Process and Transformation Private Exchange of claim 12 further consists of a means for storing an audit trail of the processes descriptions and process nodes executed.